

REMARKS

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 1, 2, 7-14 and 17-20 would be allowable if appropriately amended. In accordance with this indication, the rejected claims are suitable amended, by the above claim amendments, and those amended claims are now believed to be allowable as well.

Claims 1, 2, and 4 are objected to based on the informalities noted in the official action. In accordance with this indication, claims 1 and 2 are suitable amended, by the above claim amendments, and those amended claims are now believed to be allowable.

Claims 4-7, 24, 27-35 are rejected, under 35 U.S.C. § 103, as being unpatentable for the reasons noted in the official action. The Applicant acknowledges and respectfully traverses all of the raised obviousness rejections in view of the following remarks.

In order to place the application in a suitable condition for allowance, claims 4, 5, 24 and 27-35 are canceled, without prejudice, from the application. In view of such amendments, the Applicant respectfully submits that further comments concerning the applied prior art is not believed necessary. The Applicant also notes the remaining prior art cited in the official action. As none of that additional art is applied by the Examiner against the claims of this application, the Applicant is not providing any comments concerning that art as well.

In addition, an amendment is made to claim 6 (subject matter replaceable pads), merely to change that claim's dependency to claim 1 and to make the terminology in claim 6 consistent with claim 1 (at least one instead of at least two).

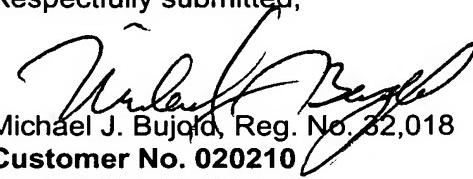
It is believed that the foregoing amendments address the concerns of the Examiner and the present application is now in a condition for allowance. The Applicant, therefore, requests favorable reconsideration and early issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

If any further amendment to this application is believed necessary to advance prosecution and place this case in allowable form, the Examiner is courteously solicited to contact the undersigned representative of the Applicant to discuss the same.

The Applicant respectfully requests that any outstanding objection(s) or requirement(s), as to the form of this application, be held in abeyance until allowable subject matter is indicated for this case.

In the event that there are any fee deficiencies or additional fees are payable, please charge the same or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account (Account No. 04-0213).

Respectfully submitted,



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